

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN EDITH CLARK**, on January 20, 2003 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Edith Clark, Chairman (R)
Sen. John Cobb, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Emily Stonington (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Robert V. Andersen, OBPP
Pat Gervais, Legislative Branch
Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Branch
Sydney Taber, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Time stamp refers to material below it.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Public Testimony:
Voc Rehab
MTAP
Developmental Disabilities

Executive Action: None.

CHAIRMAN CLARK welcomed members of the public and made announcements.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE VOC REHAB PROGRAMS

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.9 - 5.5}

Wally Melcher, Montana Association of Rehabilitation, highlighted the three issues that are of concern to many of the people who have come to testify: 1) reductions in the extended employment program of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program, 2) elimination of the funding for Independent Living (IL), and 3) elimination of vision and low-vision medical services within VR.

SEN. JOHN COBB stated that there is not enough support for the cuts on the Subcommittee. He suggested that after offering testimony, people contact the leadership in the House and Senate to let them know about the hardships they will face with cuts.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5.5 - 8.3}

June Hermanson, Montanans with Disabilities, asked the Subcommittee members to vote against DP 292 and went over the parity issue. She addressed the purpose of independent living centers, potential cuts, and the impacts of those cuts to disabled Montanans. She presented her own written testimony, and letters from others who receive assistance through these programs.

EXHIBIT(jhh11a01)

EXHIBIT(jhh11a02)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.3 - 11.7}

Theresa Gardner, a consumer, spoke of the importance to her of VR and IL services and presented her written statement.

EXHIBIT(jhh11a03)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11.7 - 15.5}

Kathie Bach, who is disabled with Cerebral Palsy, told the Subcommittee of the importance of the IL services and the supports she receives and asked that the Subcommittee not cut them.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 15.5 - 18}

Ron Shindler, who is disabled with Multiple Sclerosis, asked that the Subcommittee ensure adequate funding for IL and community supports for disabled individuals.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18 - 21.8}

Harold Eyre spoke on behalf of VR and IL services for the disabled. He became disabled later in life and is grateful for the services provided to help him remain productive.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 21.8 - 24.3}

Mitch Bradley, manager of Smith's Food and Drug, spoke on behalf of the VR Extended Employment (EE) support services. He told the story of Trina Kaszak, a developmentally disabled individual, and the success she has achieved within his organization as a result of the program. He presented his written statement.

EXHIBIT (jhh11a04)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 24.6 - 26.2}

Stacy Schmidt spoke in support of VR.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 26.2 - 28}

Char Haraszmocek spoke in support of VR, IL, and Montana Telecommunication Access Program (MTAP) relay services. Relay services allow her to communicate with and help other disabled individuals.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28 - 32}

Sylvia Ewalt related her personal story and stressed the importance of IL and support services to her life. She received training, financing, and continued support and is a taxpaying, working Montanan.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 32 - 34.5}

Reg Gibbs, Rocky Mountain Rehab, provided testimony in support of EE and VR services.

EXHIBIT (jhh11a05)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 34.5 - 40.6}

Tom Dell spoke on behalf of his brother who suffers from Huntington's Chorea. His brother works part-time as a janitor and receives assistance through the VR programs. He said that there are members on the Subcommittee that are known problem solvers and asked them to use their skills to maximize what EE can do. He expressed appreciation for their efforts.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 40.6 - 47.1}

Doug Amsden said that he was substantially underserved as a client of VR. He requested that substantial changes be made to the program in administering to individuals with disabilities and went over his attempts to get funding for a business.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 47.1 - 50}

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1.2 - 3.2}

Gregg Hafner, who is a recipient as well as a provider of VR services, addressed the importance of EE services to those with severe disabilities. He thanked the Subcommittee for its past efforts on behalf of the disabled and urged members to remember that elimination of services in one area will affect services in another area. He presented his written testimony.

EXHIBIT(jhh11a06)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 3.2 - 4.9}

James Walker spoke as a service provider of EE services for those with severe disabilities. He told of his nephew who receives EE services and the importance it plays in his life.

EXHIBIT(jhh11a07)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 4.9 - 7.9}

Alicia Mason spoke in support of support services. She was born deaf and has received EE services. She is employed at a hospital, but still needs her job coach. She asked that the Legislature keep funding this program so that she can continue to work.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7.9 - 9.5}

Kay Fleming asked that the subcommittee support independent living and allow her to keep her job coach so that she can keep working.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 9.5 - 14.5}

Wilfred Bear, Assiniboine Sioux Vocational Rehabilitation Program, spoke in support of the IL centers and asked the Subcommittee to reject DP 292. He asked that they fully restore budget cuts aimed at the poor, which is the disabled population.

EXHIBIT(jhh11a08)

**The following is a listing reflecting at what point on the tape the person started speaking, their name, and any exhibits they presented. They all spoke of their gratitude for the program and how it has affected their lives. Many personal examples were given, either for themselves or for someone they were representing. They were unanimous in their support for the programs and all were against the funding cuts to the existing programs and services.

14.5 **Tom Osborne**

16.5 **Tracy Knight**

EXHIBIT(jhh11a09)

19.9 Gene Hermanson

21.7 Nancy and Donna Staigmilller

EXHIBIT(jhh11a10)

25.3 Myrle Tompkins

26.4 Dan Burke

29.4 Mark Fay

34.3 Allen Salveson

EXHIBIT(jhh11a11)

38.0 Brad Hale

EXHIBIT(jhh11a12)

39.8 Dave Kaudy

EXHIBIT(jhh11a13)

EXHIBIT(jhh11a14)

44.3 Pat Molloy

EXHIBIT(jhh11a15)

{Tape: 2; Side: A}

0.2 Brad Champs

1.5 Brett Hudson

4.4 Daphne Ray

EXHIBIT(jhh11a16)

6.4 Kenneth Carlson

EXHIBIT(jhh11a17)

8.8 Michelle Belknap

EXHIBIT(jhh11a18)

11.9 Arlene Templer

15.1 Beverly Hardy

16.6 Lance Wizenski

18.7 Kathleen Gilluly

EXHIBIT(jhh11a19)

25.0 Barbara House

EXHIBIT(jhh11a20)

28.6 Bernadette Novak

EXHIBIT(jhh11a21)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MTAP
AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

32.0 Ron Bibler

41.1 Betty Van Tighem

46.0 Robert Ellesch

{Tape: 2; Side: B}

0.3 Robert Ellesch

3.1 Jamie Lee

6.2 Sean Patten

9.0 Chris Kouter
11.3 Teresa Erickson
14.0 Jason Billehus
EXHIBIT(jhh11a22)
22.8 Susan Duffy
31.2 Diane Butcher
33.6 Val Piercy
EXHIBIT(jhh11a23)
45.0 Lorraine Jacobs
EXHIBIT(jhh11a24)
46.5 Joe Osenbach
EXHIBIT(jhh11a25)

{Tape: 3; Side: A}

0.6 Lorraine Jacobs
EXHIBIT(jhh11a26)
2.6 Carolyn Wareham
5.7 Richard Janssen
EXHIBIT(jhh11a27)
8.6 Casey Clark
12.8 Jamie Widhalm
EXHIBIT(jhh11a28)
18.0 Ned Vasquez
EXHIBIT(jhh11a29)
24.4 Paddy Trusler
EXHIBIT(jhh11a30)
28.0 Barbara Lockhart
EXHIBIT(jhh11a31)
29.0 Judy Tadman
EXHIBIT(jhh11a32)
36.0 Melanie
38.0 Jennifer Dunn
EXHIBIT(jhh11a33)

{Tape: 3; Side: B}

0.4 Kathy Fink
EXHIBIT(jhh11a34)
3.9 Rhonda Spear
7.0 Anita Wallace
EXHIBIT(jhh11a35)
11.4 Martie Lawson
EXHIBIT(jhh11a36)
17.6 Twyla Kannegiesser
19.0 Danny Masters
20.6 Paul Dunn
24.0 Doug Potter
EXHIBIT(jhh11a37)

30.0 Rob Tallon
37.5 Mike Schaff
39.4 Scott Parmentier
42.4 Coleen Coe
42.8 Dave Eaton
EXHIBIT(jhh11a38)

{Tape: 4; Side: A}

0.1 Susan Strange
EXHIBIT(jhh11a39)
2.8 Jana and Chuck Taurman
EXHIBIT(jhh11a40)
4.5 Peggy Stiles
EXHIBIT(jhh11a41)
9.0 Holly Raser
14.1 Melissa Clark
EXHIBIT(jhh11a42)
16.1 Johnelle Howanach
19.0 Sheila Kidd
EXHIBIT(jhh11a43)
21.1 Kevin Bolme
EXHIBIT(jhh11a44)
24.0 Kathryn Tuttle
26.9 Abigail Hood
EXHIBIT(jhh11a45)
32.0 David and Annette Baird
EXHIBIT(jhh11a46)
40.0 Rozann Schuhbauer
EXHIBIT(jhh11a47)
48.9 Tifony Schilling

{Tape: 4; Side: B}

0.8 Kevin Cleary
2.5 Kelley Harrington
6.0 Deborah Swingley
EXHIBIT(jhh11a48)
21.6 John Cox
EXHIBIT(jhh11a49)
29.5 Doyle Euell
EXHIBIT(jhh11a50)
30.0 Julie Rummel
EXHIBIT(jhh11a51)
38.6 Bob Dir
40.0 Lisa Lexton
40.3 Gayle Isaacson
42.2 Janet Loomis
EXHIBIT(jhh11a52)

43.5 Tony Shea
44.3 Kelly Murray

{Tape: 5; Side: A}

0.5 Judy Armbruster
EXHIBIT(jhh11a53)
1.5 Sabrina Wisher
5.4 Brent Furtell
6.1 Mary McCue
EXHIBIT(jhh11a54)
9.1 Scott Phillips
10.7 JoLynn Kurtz
EXHIBIT(jhh11a55)
13.8 Cathy Fabel
EXHIBIT(jhh11a56)
19.6 Vicki Warner
21.9 Jeanne
27.3 Michelle Belknap
EXHIBIT(jhh11a57)
32.0 Carol Wilson
37.0 Michelle Wilkinson
44.3 Gary Garlock
49.1 Robert Kinn

{Tape: 5; Side: B}

0.5 Robert Kinn
2.2 Bernadette Price
6.8 Mary Ann Guggenheim
9.5 Janet Luciano
EXHIBIT(jhh11a58)

The following Exhibits were presented without oral testimony during this public testimony in support of the vocational rehab, MTAP, and Developmental Disabilities programs and against any cuts from those programs or services.

EXHIBIT(jhh11a59)
EXHIBIT(jhh11a60)
EXHIBIT(jhh11a61)
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EXHIBIT (jhh11a85)
EXHIBIT (jhh11a86)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:50 P.M.

REP. EDITH CLARK, Chairman

SYDNEY TABER, Secretary

EC/ST

EXHIBIT (jhh11aad)